

où est probablement la limite orientale de sa distribution géographique. Dans la Sibérie orientale l'espèce est représentée par une forme voisine, *A. erythropygius*, Cab.

Parmi les *Buteo ferox* (Gm.), il y a un exemplaire tout brun comme cela arrive quelquefois dans le *B. vulgaris*, plus souvent dans la petite race orientale, *B. martini*, Hardy, et dans plusieurs autres espèces. La queue de cet individu est cendrée, barrée de 7 raies étroites brunes complètes et d'une large bande terminale presque noire; ces raies sont pâles mais distinctes sur le côté inférieur de la queue. La partie basale de la page externe des primaires est imprégnée de cendré; le côté interne de toutes les rémiges est d'un blanc grisâtre, barré de brunâtre.

Il y a deux formes de pigeons, *C. livia*, L., et *C. rupestris*, Bp. Ces derniers sont tout-à-fait comme ceux de la Daourie et du Baical méridional, mais pas comme ceux de la côte de la mer du Japon. Quant aux premiers, ils sont beaucoup plus forts que les oiseaux de Triest et de l'Algérie, avec lesquels-je les ai comparés: ils ont le bec beaucoup plus fort, ainsi que les pattes et toutes les dimensions; l'aile pliée du mâle dépasse de 15 mill. celle du mâle de l'Algérie et de 20 l'aile du mâle de Triest. Dans la coloration il y a quelques petits détails différentiels; et principalement dans les oiseaux du Turkestan la nuance rouge est beaucoup plus forte et plus répandue autour de la gorge, le cendré bleuâtre du dos plus clair, et le blanc du bord de la rectrice externe beaucoup plus pur.

4. On a Collection of Birds from the Comoro Islands.

By Captain G. E. SHELLEY.

[Received August 9, 1879.]

Dr. Kirk, H.B.M. Consul-General of Zanzibar, has most kindly forwarded to me a collection of birds from the Comoro Islands, consisting of 186 specimens: 83 were collected in the island of Grand Comoro, and belong to 25 species. Of these, 17 are known to inhabit the coast of Madagascar, 9 the continent of Africa, and 17 are common to the two islands of Grand Comoro and Anjuan (Johanna).

One species of *Zosterops* appears to be new; and I therefore name it *Z. kirki*, in acknowledgment of the assistance rendered to ornithology by Dr. Kirk. The remaining 103 specimens were obtained on the island of Anjuan: these belong to 23 species, three of which are new to that island—*Psittacula cana*, *Tringa subarquata*, and *Eurystomus glaucurus*.

Mr. E. Newton, in a valuable communication to this Society (P. Z. S. 1877, pp. 295-302), on a collection of birds from the Island of Anjuan made by Mr. C. E. Bewsher, appends a most useful table showing the distribution of the species then known to inhabit the islands of the Comoro group and remarks:—"From this

it will be seen that we absolutely know nothing of the avifauna of the Great Comoro."

It is most interesting, therefore, to have received a collection from Grand Comoro, and once more to couple Dr. Kirk's name with the ornithology of this group of islands, which he was one of the first to explore scientifically, an account of his former investigations having been published by Dr. Sclater (*Ibis*, 1864, p. 292).

In order to render this short communication as serviceable as possible, I have followed Mr. E. Newton's arrangement (*P. Z. S.* 1877, p. 295), and prefixed a dagger (†) to those species which are here recorded for the first time from a new locality, and a star (*) to the species new to this group of islands.

*1. *CIRCUS MACROSCELIS*, E. Newton.

Circus macroscelis, Sharpe, *P. Z. S.* 1875, p. 71.

Circus macroscelus, Hartl. *Vög. Madag.* p. 38 (1877).

?*Circus maillardi*, E. Newton, *P. Z. S.* 1877, p. 302.

A single specimen from Grand Comoro agrees perfectly with the description of the type of *C. macroscelis*, as given by Mr. R. B. Sharpe (*l. c.*), in the measurements of the tarsus and in the number of bands on the tail. The specimen unfortunately not having been sexed, I am unable to say for certain whether this is the female of *C. maillardi* or not; but I incline to Mr. Sharpe's opinion that it is only the hen of that bird.

†2. *ASTUR PUSILLUS* (Gurney).

Scelopizias pusillus, Hartl. *Vög. Madag.* p. 31.

Accipiter pusillus, E. Newton, *P. Z. S.* 1877, p. 296.

Two immature specimens, Grand Comoro.

Adult male and female and an immature bird, Anjuan.

♂ ad. Total length 9·7 inches, wing 5·6, tail 4·8, tarsus 1·95.

♀ ad. „ 11·5 „ 6·4 „ 5·3 „ 2·05.

†3. *MILVUS ÆGYPTIUS* (Gm.).

Milvus ægyptius, Sharpe, *Cat. B. i.* p. 320 (1874); Hartl. *Vög. Madag.* p. 27; E. Newton, *P. Z. S.* 1877, p. 296.

One adult specimen, Grand Comoro.

†4. *STRIX FLAMMEA*, Linn.

Strix flammea, Sharpe, *Cat. B. ii.* p. 291 (1875); Hartl. *Vög. Madag.* p. 52.

Aluco flammea, E. Newton, *P. Z. S.* 1877, p. 296.

One specimen, Grand Comoro.

†5. *CORACOPSIS COMORENSIS*, Peters.

Coracopsis comorensis, Hartl. *Vög. Madag.* p. 230; E. Newton, *P. Z. S.* 1877, p. 296.

Four specimens, Grand Comoro, and seven from Anjuan.

†6. *CORACOPSIS BARKLYI*, E. Newton.

Coracopsis barklyi, E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1867, p. 346, pl. 22, 1877, p. 296; Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 231.

One specimen from Grand Comoro and one from Anjuan.

Compared with a specimen of *C. barklyi* from the Seychelles, I find the Comoro birds slightly darker and the greyish green on the primary coverts and quills almost absent.

Mr. E. Newton was led to the belief that this species had been introduced as a cage-bird from the Seychelles islands, owing to Mr. Bewsher having only met with a single specimen; but now that we know of three examples and from two of the islands, I think that this Parrot should be looked upon as indigenous to the Comoro group.

*7. *PSITTACULA CANA* (Gm.).

Psittacula cana, Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 234.

Seven specimens, Anjuan.

Mr. C. E. Bewsher heard of this species from the natives; but as he did not obtain a specimen, it is here recorded for the first time as a native of the Comoro Islands. Hitherto this Love-bird has only been met with in Madagascar, and by Baron von der Decken on the small island of Mafia, south of Zanzibar, where, I presume, it was only an escaped cage-bird.

*8. *LEPTOSOMA DISCOLOR* (Herm.).

Leptosoma discolor, Sharpe, Ibis, 1871, p. 285; Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 255.

a, b. Adult males, and *c, d,* female, Grand Comoro.

e. Immature male, Anjuan.

These agree in their colouring with Madagascar birds; but the specimens from Grand Comoro are remarkably small, as the following measurements will show, but should not in my opinion be separated as specifically distinct.

	Entire length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.
	in.	in.	in.	in.
♂ ad. Madagascar	18·5	10·0	8·0	1·30
♂ juv. Madagascar	16·0	9·7	8·0	1·20
♂ juv. Anjuan	16·2	9·0	7·3	1·25
<i>a.</i> ♂ ad. Grand Comoro ..	15·7	9·5	7·5	1·15
<i>b.</i> ♂ ad. Grand Comoro ..	15·0	8·9	7·3	1·10
<i>c.</i> ♀. Grand Comoro	14·6	8·8	7·3	1·15
<i>d.</i> ♀. Grand Comoro	15·0	8·5	6·8	1·15

*9. *EURYSTOMUS GLAUCURUS* (P. L. S. Müll.).

Eurystomus glaucurus, Sharpe, Ibis, 1871, p. 271.

Eurystomus madagascariensis, Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 67.

One adult specimen from Anjuan. It agrees perfectly with the Madagascar bird.

10. *CORYTHORNIS CRISTATA* (Linn.).

Corythornis vintsioides, Sharpe, Monogr. Alced. p. 33 (1867);
E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 297.

Corythornis cristata, Sharpe, Monogr. Alced. p. vi (1871);
Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 78.

Seven specimens, Anjuan.

†11. *MEROPS SUPERCILIOSUS*, Linn.

Merops superciliosus, Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 81; E. Newton,
P. Z. S. 1877, p. 297.

Two specimens from Grand Comoro, and five from Anjuan.

I feel no doubt as to the forms inhabiting the Comoro Islands, Madagascar, and East and South Africa being identical. They are the true *M. superciliosus*, Linn., and are distinct from the Egyptian and more northern form *M. ægyptius*, Forsk.

*12. *CINNYRIS NOTATA* (P. L. S. Müll.).

Cinnyris notatus, Shelley, Monogr. Sun-birds, pt. ii. (1876).

Nectarinia angladiana, Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 89.

Five adult males, Grand Comoro.

This species, hitherto only known from Madagascar, appears to be not uncommon in Grand Comoro. Compared with the Madagascar bird I can find no specific difference, though in the specimens before me there is a slight but variable tendency to a blue gloss on the throat and mantle.

13. *CINNYRIS COMORENSIS*, Peters.

Cinnyris comorensis, Shelley, Monogr. Sun-birds, pt. ix. (1879).

Three specimens, Anjuan.

†14. *ZOSTEROPS ANJUANENSIS*, E. Newton.

Zosterops anjuanensis, E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 297, pl. 33.
fig. 1.

One specimen from Grand Comoro, and six from Anjuan.

*15. *ZOSTEROPS KIRKI*, n. sp.

a, b. Two specimens, Grand Comoro.

Similis *Z. mayottensi* sed *multo minor et subtus omnino flava, hypochondriis quoque flavis distinguenda.*

a. Upper parts, as well as the wing-coverts, olive-yellow, with a rather yellower shade on the upper tail-coverts; sides of the forehead and an eyebrow gamboge-yellow; remainder of the wings dark brown, the feathers margined on the outer webs with olive-yellow and on their inner webs with white; tail dark brown, with the outer webs of the feathers edged with olive-yellow; entire underparts uniform gamboge-yellow. Total length 3·7 inches, culmen 0·35, wing 2·1, tail 1·5, tarsus 0·65.

I believe the specimen I have here described to be a male, because it is slightly the brighter bird. In *b* the sides of the crop and the flanks are faintly tinted with olive.

*16. *ARTAMIA BICOLOR* (Linn.).

Artamia bicolor, Schl. & Poll. Faun. Madag. p. 85, pl. 24 (1853).

Cyanolanius bicolor, Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 157 (1877).

One specimen, Grand Comoro.

This is the first occurrence of this species out of Madagascar. The specimen is an adult in most perfect plumage, and gives me no reason to believe that it had been a caged bird.

†17. *TERPSIPHONE VULPINA* (E. Newton).

Tchitrea vulpina, E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 298, pl. 33. fig. 2.

Terpsiphone vulpina, Sharpe, Cat. B. iv. p. 353 (1879).

Two specimens from Grand Comoro, and two from Anjuan.

These specimens are darker than some from Madagascar; and the character of the elongated crest alluded to by Mr. Sharpe does not seem very strongly pronounced. I do not at present unite the bird to *T. mutata*, as all the specimens sent home have white wings and red tails, whereas in the apparently corresponding stage of the Madagascar bird the long tail-feathers are already white.

18. *EDOLIUS FORFICATUS* (Linn.).

Dicrurus forficatus, Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 148; E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 297.

Edolius forficatus, Sharpe, Cat. B. iii. p. 254 (1878).

Eleven specimens, Anjuan.

†19. *HYPSIPETES OUROVANG* (Gm.).

Hypsipetes ourovang, Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 136; E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 299.

Nine specimens from Grand Comoro, and ten from Anjuan.

20. *TURDUS BEWSHERI*, E. Newton.

Turdus bewsheri, E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 299, pl. 34.

One specimen, Anjuan.

21. *CORVUS SCAPULATUS*, Daud.

Corvus scapulatus, Sharpe, Cat. B. iii. p. 22 (1877); Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 201.

Corvus madagascariensis, E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 299.

Three specimens, Anjuan.

†22. *SPERMESTES CUCULLATUS*, Swains.

Spermestes cucullatus, E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 299.

Seven specimens from Grand Comoro, and two from Anjuan.

†23. *FOUDIA ALGONDÆ* (Poll.).

Ploceus algondæ, Schl. & Poll. Faun. Madag. p. 109, pl. 34 (1868).

Foudia algondæ, Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 216; E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 300.

Foudia comorensis, Hartl. tom. cit. p. 217.

Seven specimens from Grand Comoro, and nine from Anjuan.

†24. *PASSER DOMESTICUS* (Linn.).

Passer domesticus, Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 401.

Three specimens, Grand Comoro.

25. *COLUMBA POLLENI*, Schl.

Columba polleni, Schl. & Poll. Faun. Madag. p. 112, pl. 35; Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 267; E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 300.

Three specimens, Anjuan.

†26. *CHALCOPTERA TYMPANISTRIA* (Temm.).

Peristera tympanistria, Finsch & Hartl. Vög. Ost-Afr. p. 558 (1870); Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 271.

Three specimens, Grand Comoro.

27. *TURTUR COMORENSIS*, E. Newton.

? *Turtur aldabranus*, Scat. P. Z. S. 1871, p. 300; Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 270.

Turtur comorensis, E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 300.

Two specimens, Anjuan.

The measurements agree perfectly with those given by Mr. E. Newton for *T. comorensis*, and not with those of *T. aldabranus*, Scat.; otherwise the two species appear to be remarkably similar.

†28. *TURTUR CAPICOLA* (Sundev.).

Turtur capicola, Finsch & Hartl. Vög. Ost-Afr. p. 548.

? *Turtur semitorquatus*, Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 271; E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 300.

Five specimens, Grand Comoro.

29. *ALECTRÆNAS SGANZINI* (Verr.).

Alectrænas sganzini, Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 260; E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 300.

A fine series from both Grand Comoro and Anjuan.

†30. *NUMIDA TIARATA* (Bp.).

Numida mitrata (part.), Elliot, Monogr. Phasianidæ, ii. pl. xli.; Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 275.

Numida tiarata, E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 301.

One specimen, Grand Comoro.

†31. *ARDEA GULARIS*, Bosc.

Ardea gularis, Finsch & Hartl. Vög. Ost-Afr. p. 691; Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 289; E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 302.

A wing and back of an immature Heron, Grand Comoro, probably belonging to this species.

32. *BUBULCUS IBIS* (Linn.).

Ardea bubulcus, Finsch & Hartl. Vög. Ost-Afr. p. 694; Hartl. Vög. Madag. p. 302.

Ardea ibis, E. Newton, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 301.

Three specimens, Anjuan.

